

Measures of Center and Spread

Measures of Center

Mean – A number that represents the middle point, or average. It is the quotient obtained by dividing the sum total of a set of figures by the number of figures.

Median – The value in an ordered set of values that represents the point of which there are as many instances higher as there are lower.

Mode – The most frequent value of a set of data.

Measure of Dispersion (Spread)

Range – The difference between the highest and the lowest numbers in a set of data.

Try These

Mean Health Care Salaries (2006) http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#b00-0000

Surgeon	\$184,150
Home Health Aides	20,960
Nurses Aides	22,960
Dental Assistants	30,850
Physical Therapists	41,410
Athletic Trainers	38,860

Mean _____

Mode _____

Median _____

Range _____

Which measure best describes this set of data and why?

STUDENT HANDOUT

You work for a company and you want a raise in your pay. You find out the following information:

Annual Income	Number of Employees
\$105,000	1
60,000	3
30,000	1
28,000	5
21,000	10

Find the information below:

Mean _____

Mode _____

Median _____

Range _____

In negotiations:

The owner of the company will probably use the _____ to describe the company. Why?

The union leader (person negotiating for the workers) will probably use the _____ to describe the company. Why?

A statistician would probably use the _____ to describe the company. Why?
